

### Charter Commission Feedback Session – Comment Form

| Like It? |    |          | Charter Component (use space below to comment/suggest improvements)   |
|----------|----|----------|---|
| Yes      | No | Not Sure |   |
|          |    |          | <b>13 member Town Council</b> – 10 precinct representatives (2-year term), 3 at-large (4-year term)   |
|          |    |          | <b>Mayor</b> – elected at-large (4-year term)   |
|          |    |          | <b>Precinct Meetings with Councilors</b> , at least quarterly, open to all residents  |
|          |    |          | <b>Civic Engagement Officer</b> (helps residents learn about opportunities to participate, and government to communicate better to residents) |
|          |    |          | <b>Annual Public Forums on budget, master plan, and schools</b>   |
|          |    |          | <b>Annual State-of-the-Town Address</b> by mayor  |
|          |    |          | <b>Monthly Update from Mayor to Residents</b> (via email, web post, news column, etc.)  |
|          |    |          | <b>Master Plan Adoption by Town Council</b> , with citizen participation  |
|          |    |          | <b>“Participatory Budgeting”</b> (residents suggest and vote on projects to fund through the capital budget, as in Cambridge)                 |
|          |    |          | <b>Citizen Petition</b> to Town Council – Council action discretionary  |
|          |    |          | <b>Group Petition</b> to Town Council – Council action required, with 50 signatures   |

| Like It? |    |          | Charter Component (use space below to comment/suggest improvements)  |
|----------|----|----------|--|
| Yes      | No | Not Sure |  |
|          |    |          | <b>Citizen Initiative</b> – force town-wide vote on citizen proposal, with signatures from 5% of registered voters   |
|          |    |          | <b>Citizen Veto</b> – force town-wide vote on whether to overturn Town Council vote, with signatures from 5% of registered voters  |
|          |    |          | <b>Citizen Recall</b> of Elected Officials – with 15% of registered voters; no sooner than 9 months after elected  |
|          |    |          | <b>Term Limits</b> on Elected Officials (tell us what limits you prefer, if any)   |
|          |    |          | <b>Public Campaign Supports</b> – provide resources (webpage, newspaper space, etc.) to make it easier for candidates to get noticed without big money; publicize donors |
|          |    |          | <b>Chief Administrative Officer</b> (senior level) <b>or Chief of Staff</b> (less senior) to provide professional management support for mayor                           |
|          |    |          | <b>Runoff Elections or “Ranked-Choice Voting”</b> to ensure majority vote for elected officials  |
|          |    |          | <b>Early Voting</b> offered for all local elections  |
|          |    |          | <b>Voting by Mail</b> offered for all local elections  |
|          |    |          | <i>[Your idea here]</i>  |
|          |    |          | <i>[Your idea here]</i>  |

**Send additional ideas/comments to the Charter Commission at [charter@amherstma.gov](mailto:charter@amherstma.gov)**